

**Draft Summary of the Engineering and Operations Work Group Meeting  
Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)  
March 26, 2004**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) hosted the Engineering and Operations Work Group (EOWG) meeting on March 26, 2004 via telephone conference.

A summary of the discussions, decisions made, and action items is provided below. This summary is not intended to be a transcript, analysis of the meeting, or to indicate agreement or disagreement with any of the items summarized, except where expressly stated. The intent is to present an informational summary for interested parties who could not attend the meeting. The following attachments are provided with this summary:

Attachment 1 Meeting Agenda

Attachment 2 Meeting Attendees

Attachment 3 Presentation on Desktop Analysis in Support of Scenario 23

### **Introduction**

Attendees were welcomed to the EOWG meeting. The meeting agenda and desired outcomes were reviewed. The meeting agenda and list of meeting attendees and their affiliations are appended to this summary as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively.

### **February 27, 2004 Meeting Summary and Action Items**

A summary of the February 27, 2004 EOWG is posted on the relicensing web site. The EOWG reviewed the status of action items from that meeting as follows:

**Action Item EO#105:** Distribute the Thermalito Afterbay inundation map.  
**Status:** Maps were distributed to the E&OWG.

**Action Item EO#106:** Mail CD to Ken Kules and David Purkey.  
**Status:** CDs were mailed to Ken Kules and David Purkey.

**Action Item EO#107:** Provide comments on EO1 write-up to DWR. DWR will provide revised text to EOWG in advance of the March EOWG meeting.  
**Status:** The revision of the draft write-up for EO1 is still currently in-progress. It is expected that the revised draft write-up will be available at the Oroville Facilities Relicensing Operations Modeling Workshop scheduled for April 30, 2004.

**Action Item EO#108:** Prepare write-ups on Resource Actions EO2 and EO3 based on modeling activities by the next Operations Modeling Workshop.  
**Status:** The draft write-ups should be available by the next Operations Modeling Workshop scheduled for April 30, 2004.

### **Operations Modeling Update**

Curtis Creel (DWR) described the problems recently resolved with running the temperature model in conjunction with the operations model. The temperature model (WQRRS) is currently being recalibrated with up-to-date information and the modeling team is re-running the Existing Conditions Benchmark Study and running the Future Conditions Benchmark Study. Curtis explained that the modeling effort is back on track and results will be presented at the next Operations Modeling Workshop scheduled for April 30, 2004 in Sacramento. The EOWG discussed the automation of WQRRS and how some scenario simulations will not have to be performed because the results can be obtained from the Benchmark Study results.

### Scenario 23

Bill Smith (SWRI) presented a status update on Scenario 23, *Evaluate Integrated Temperature and Flow Targets for Salmonids*, to the EOWG. He reminded the EOWG that Scenario 23 would assist Oroville Facilities Relicensing participants in understanding flow and temperature limitations in the lower Feather River. Bill presented results of a qualitative evaluation designed to determine if the biological temperature criteria at Honcut Creek are achievable and if not, where within the system could the temperatures be met without incurring adverse impacts upstream. Bill explained that high temperature variability at Honcut Creek is heavily influenced by meteorology and difficult to manage; he stated it may be more feasible to manage acceptable temperatures at Thermalito Diversion Dam and move the control criteria upstream from Honcut Creek. The EOWG discussed the risks of cold water depletion if a decision is made to make early season water releases to achieve temperature criteria downstream at Honcut Creek. The presentation is provided as Attachment 3 to this summary. Please refer to the presentation for specific details.

The next step is to work with the Environmental Work Group (EWG) to refine temperature and flow targets, update the analysis with the Benchmark Study results, and refine the scenarios. The EOWG noted that high flows to maintain temperatures downstream might adversely affect habitat in the upstream reaches.

### Resource Action Discussion

Curtis Creel reminded the EOWG that the Plenary Group expects to hear from them regarding recommendations on proposed resource actions. He requested comments on the resource action matrix or write-ups be directed to Lori Brown before April 6. The EOWG discussed EO1, a resource action to construct facilities to convey cold water directly to the Thermalito Afterbay Outlet. Curtis reported that there is enough information to suggest further investigation into this proposal. He also noted that there are potential impacts to recreation, waterfowl and sensitive species habitat. The EOWG discussed other options to direct cold water through the Afterbay and to the Outlet more quickly such as the use of sheet piles and expressed a desire to see more information on other options that may be feasible. The EOWG agreed to hold a task force meeting to discuss potential options related to the cold water and warm water interests of the collaborative. The meeting was scheduled for April 21, 2004 at the Oroville Field Division from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Key EWG participants will be expected to attend.

### Next Steps

The regularly scheduled April EOWG meeting date is also the date of Modeling Work Shop #5, April 30, 2004. The Work Shop will be held at the Department of Aging, 1600 K Street, in Sacramento. The EOWG agreed to schedule the next EOWG and task force meeting as follows:

Date: April 21, 2004  
Time: 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.  
Location: Oroville Field Division

### Action Items

The following action item was identified by the EOWG and includes a description of the action, the participant responsible for the action, and due date.

**Action Item EO#109:** Provide comments on the resource action matrix or write-ups to Lori Brown.  
**Responsible:** DWR  
**Due Date:** April 6, 2004

**Action Item EO#110:** Convene a task force to discuss EO1.  
**Responsible:** EOWG  
**Due Date:** April 21, 2004